# *Postings*: from the desk of Jim Brodrick

The new year promises to be an eventful one for DOE's solid-state lighting (SSL) program. On the immediate horizon, DOE's seventh annual SSL R&D Workshop takes place Feb. 2-4 in Raleigh, North Carolina. More than just a great networking opportunity, it offers a way to stay informed about the latest R&D advances, strategies, and ideas, as well as a front-row seat at an event that informs the research agendas in government, academia, and industry. It's not too late to register, and I invite you to attend. The R&D workshop will be followed later in the year by two others sponsored by DOE: the second annual SSL Manufacturing Workshop in April - which focuses on improving LED and OLED manufacturing processes, equipment, and costs - and the fourth annual SSL Market Introduction Workshop in July, focused on strategies for speeding SSL market adoption.

A key part of the market introduction of SSL is the CALiPER testing program, and on that front we're expanding our focus in 2010. CALiPER evolves in response to the evolution of the technology and market, and now that a number of SSL products are clearly competitive with their CFL and incandescent counterparts with respect to light output, distribution, and color, CALiPER analysis will begin to explore more nuanced characteristics such as reliability, dimmability, and color shift. These will be covered in a series of Exploratory Studies that will be added to the Detailed Test Reports, Summary Reports, and Benchmark Reports you're already familiar with.

Here's a quick preview of additional program developments planned for 2010:

- As the number of products listed on the Lighting Facts[CM] website continues to grow rapidly, DOE will selectively monitor them through a new quality assurance program to verify the accuracy of the performance claims. This step is designed to protect the integrity of the Lighting Facts label and program,

and manufacturers will be notified if the test results indicate any discrepancies in performance claims, compared to the data originally provided to DOE.

- The Quality Advocates working group on SSL reliability and lifetime is close to publishing a set of guidelines on that knotty subject, and attendees at next month's R&D workshop will get a preview of what's being done by this group. A workshop panel session devoted to the topic will explore such complex questions as how lifetime can be demonstrated and how color stability relates to product life.

- Watch for the launch of the DOE Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium, a new forum to share information and experiences related to LED street lighting demonstrations. Municipalities, utilities, and energy efficiency organizations will soon be invited to join the consortium, share questions and answers, and tap into a growing body of information on LED street lights.

- New education initiatives are high on our priority list, prompted by feedback from *Postings* readers, workshop attendees, and other stakeholders. To that end, DOE plans to launch several new SSL training initiatives this year. I'll provide more details later, but our intention is to expand the awareness and understanding of SSL across the entire lighting industry chain, and especially to segments that know the least about it. One of our new education initiatives involves working with large retailers and distributors to provide direction on LED product development and selection, as well as messaging and support for consumer education.

These are only a few highlights of what DOE has planned for 2010. I'll keep you "posted" as our plans unfold.

As always, if you have questions or comments, you can reach me at postings@lightingfacts.com.

James R. Brodrick